

Rhythm and Meter

A. Directions: Read the poem “Rain” by Robert Louis Stevenson. Answer the questions that follow.

Rain

The rain is falling all around,
It falls on field and tree,
It rains on the umbrellas here,
And on the ships at sea.

1. Scan the lines. What is their meter?
 - a. iambic
 - b. trochaic
2. Which of statement about the meter is *true*?
 - a. The meter emphasizes the rhyme in the poem.
 - b. The meter has a melodic, songlike quality.
 - c. The steady meter echoes the steady beat of rain falling.
 - d. All of the above.

B. Directions: Read this stanza from Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s “Kubla Khan.” Then answer the questions that follow.

In Xanadu did Kubla Khan
A stately pleasure-dome decree:
Where Alph, the sacred river, ran
Through caverns measureless to man
Down to a sunless sea.

3. Scan the lines. What is their meter?
 - a. iambic
 - b. trochaic
4. What is the mood or tone of the stanza? _____
5. Which line breaks from the regular meter of the stanza? How does the line’s meter reinforce the stanza’s mood? _____
